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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, EDUCATION, AND WELFARE-Public Health Service

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN
MAY 14 1962
MEDICAL LIBRARY

NATIONAL LIBRARY OF MEDICINE NEWS

VOL. XVII, No. 5 Bethesda 14, Maryland MAY 1962

MOVE COMPLETED

For the first time in more than twenty years the entire collection of the National Library of Medicine is once again under one roof. The last of materials from the old building came in by May 2, slightly ahead of schedule; the materials of the History of Medicine Division arrived from Cleveland on April 24.

The move from Cleveland was made in four vans; the vans were sealed, and a guard rode in each cab; the shipment was insured for six million dollars. The carefully wrapped volumes are now being removed from the packing boxes and placed on the shelves in their proper order. The History of Medicine Division is expected to be open for business on May 14. Miss Hardy, Miss Parker, Miss Stuff, and Mr. Trienens have moved from Cleveland along with the collections; they join Dr. Blake, Mrs. Kennedy, and Miss Epling to form the nucleus of the new History of Medicine Division staff in Bethesda.

The doors of the new building were opened to readers on April 16. It was surprising and gratifying to see the high degree of order which had been established by that time. The staff members carried out their tasks in a highly exemplary manner, despite the distracting commotion inevitably associated with the continuing move of the collection.

Many things inevitably went wrong. In the middle of a cold snap, heat distribution to one sector of the building was faulty and the staff in this area huddled in overcoats over desks and typewriters. Elevators went out of commission, one after another; at the end of the first week only a single elevator remained in use, and the success of the remainder of the move hung on its continuing operation. Parking became a problem as the contractor began paving islands in the parking lot all at one sweep, with marble blocks. Filing cabinets in the Director's office failed to clear into the allotted space by a margin of about one-sixteenth of an inch. Telephone and electrical outlets jutted from the floor to create a hazard until the bronze caps arrived which would permit leveling them flush with the floor tiles. Despite all precautions, ancient furniture whatnots from the

old building turned up; for some of these the function was unidentifiable, as if they had suddenly been unearthed from some long extinct culture.

Visitors and sightseers poured in, to the extent that it was sometimes impossible to keep track of them. People wandering about the mezzanine level frequently expressed a desire to go up into the glassed-in ring under the high roof and invariably were disappointed when told that there was no provision for such access. The cars of staff members and users moving out into Wisconsin Avenue created new and baffling traffic patterns which cannot be solved until the Library's access road is cut through to the main reservation of the National Institutes of Health.

On April 26 some 250 members of the District of Columbia Library Association assembled at NLM for their monthly meeting. They heard a discussion of the MEDLARS project by Mr. Seymour I. Taine of NLM and Mr. Richard F. Garrard of the General Electric Company; they listened to comments on building planning and moving by Mr. Ray W. Grim and Mr. William H. Kurth, and they toured the building. This was the first of many meetings already scheduled at NLM by outside groups; for example, the visiting members to the convention of Special Libraries Association will come to NLM in May.

This month, too, on May 11, the Hippocrates plane tree cutting, presented to NLM last December by the Government of Greece, will be planted in the appointed spot on the grounds. A small informal ceremony is planned to mark the fact that all the books are not only in the building but are also in their proper places on the shelves. On two successive Sunday afternoons, May 13 and 20, the Library will hold Open House for the medical community of the Washington metropolitan area. And then the formalities incident to the moving will be completed, collections and equipment throughout all divisions will be in place, and the staff can turn to. Large programs and large challenges lie ahead.

BOARD OF REGENTS MEETING

The NLM Board of Regents met at the new building on April 13. A film of the Dedication Ceremony was shown, and additional scenes were filmed for the motion picture on the National Library of Medicine which will have its world première at the Second International Congress on Medical Librarianship to be held in Washington in June 1963. Budgetary plans for Fiscal Year 1964 were reviewed; the Library's Extramural Program plans, particularly as they relate to the support of publication, were discussed; progress in the MEDLARS project was checked, with emphasis on the possibilities of decentralizing the search potential to regional or local medical centers.

The Board elected Dr. Warner L. Wells, Professor of Surgery at the University of North Carolina, as the new Chairman to succeed Dr. Worth B. Daniels, whose term expires in August.

ORNAMENTS

We do not like the connotation of the word "ornaments" in connection with our new Library building, but we are at a loss for another more suitable designation. We like to think of the NLM ornamentation as being built in, an integral part of the building and certainly not an excrescence thereon.

The portrait busts of Billings, Fletcher, and Garrison, designed by Mr. C. Paul Jennewein, have been chiseled into the marble of the north wall of the lobby by Mr. Bruno Mankowski, an expert carver and an artist in his own right. The impression desired, and achieved, is that of the founding fathers being inextricably imbedded in the fabric of the Library's structure.

The gigantic ceramic-tile mural, which will cover the four sides above the public catalog area in the rotunda, is being molded and fired in the workshop of the artist, Mr. Frans Wildenhain, near Rochester, New York. The mural will be installed during the summer months.

The medlars trees surrounding the Library on the terrace burst into bloom the day after the historical collection arrived from Cleveland and are now at their peak. NLM is one institution which can boast of Medlars inside and out.

EXTRAMURAL PROGRAM

The Library's Extramural Program has been substantially strengthened by the addition of Mr. Marion Daniel Bailey as Program Director for Scientific Publication, and Mr. William H. Kurth as Staff Officer, Library Resources and Facilities.

Mr. Bailey comes to the Library from the Division of General Medical Sciences, National Institutes of Health; as Information Officer there he has been closely involved with support of scientific publication. He assisted in the planning of the 1961 National Health Forum, and in the editing of the volume Better Communications for Better Health. In close cooperation with NIH Mr. Bailey will develop a program for reviewing grant applications requesting support for scientific publication.

Mr. Kurth, who has been Deputy Chief of the Reference Services Division, will be responsible for establishing a series of studies related to medical library development. These studies are expected to touch on national needs for facilities, library resources, and personnel.

NATIONAL AGRICULTURAL LIBRARY

Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman has marked the 100th anniversary of the Library of the U. S. Department of Agriculture by designating it as the National Agricultural Library in recognition of its traditional nationwide responsibilities. Secretary Freeman said that "from the date of its inception the Library ... has served as a national library," and it is "fitting ... that the national scope of its collection and services be recognized in its name."

STAFFING PROBLEMS

The move of the National Library of Medicine to its new building has, as foreseen, brought about staffing problems; staff members living at long distances across the city from Bethesda have in some instances found it more expeditious to seek new positions nearer to their places of residence. The low ebb of positions filled was 198, just before the move; this is the lowest level of employment experienced by the Library during the incumbency of its present Director. With the move accomplished, the level is beginning to rise, but there is a long way to go to reach the level of 250 expected to be authorized by Congress for the fiscal year beginning July 1. Positions are open in almost all areas, with the greatest needs being in clerical and library assistant positions. Applications will be welcomed.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

The National Health Council has announced the publication of a monograph based on the 1961 National Health Forum: Better Communications for Better Health. This volume, distributed by Columbia University Press, represents a digest of the pre-Forum workshops and discussions relating to aspects of the communication problem.

The ten-year cumulation, 1950-1960, of New Serial Titles has now been published. The two-volume set is available at $56.25 from the Card Division, Library of Congress.

David A. Kronick's A History of Scientific and Technical Periodicals; the Origins and Development of the Scientific and Technological Press, 1665-1790 (274 p.) has recently appeared. The work is published by The Scarecrow Press, Inc., of New York.

NEW ADDRESS FOR NLM: 8600 WISCONSIN AVENUE, BETHESDA 14, MD.

Use of funds for printing this publication approved by the Director of the Bureau of the Budget, February 26, 1960